

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

MARCH 2011

35TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2011 OFFICERS

ACTING PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
PROGRAM CHAIR
HAL GAUPER

TREASURER
TOM PEAKE

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KITTY CONSALVO

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MEMBERSHIP
RUTH PATRIGNANI

LIBRARY CHAIR
DAVID FERRIS

PARLIAMENTARIAN
HAL GAUPER

REFRESHMENTS
NANCY WILLS

PAST PRESIDENT
JOHN WOODARD
2007-2009

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Next VCGS Meeting will be **March 17, 2011**

6pm Auditorium City Island Library Daytona

**Fayn Leveille from the Halifax Historical Museum will be speaking on
"Original Inhabitants and Early Settlers of Volusia County"**

February Meeting From the Minutes of the Society by *Kitty Consalvo*

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:

Hal Gauper, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. He asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There were 35 members present.

Resignation of President:

Hal announced that the Executive Board had accepted the resignation, with regret, of Michael Williams as President.

Membership:

Ruth Patrignani informed members that new nametags were available for those who had paid their dues. She reminded them that dues needed to be paid. She also noted that she is working on a new brochure for the Society.

Announcements:

Hal announced that books remaining from the book sale were on the table in the back and were free to anyone interested in them.

In addition, the Society is looking for a volunteer to run the group Website. He noted that assistance would be provided.

Treasurer's Report:

he balance as of February 17, 2011 is \$1,860.93. The Society received \$299.09 in proceeds from the Seminar. The book fund currently has \$591.00.

Program:

Hal introduced Kathy Stickney from the Halifax Genealogical Society who spoke on "Researching Your Confederate Soldier." Mrs. Stickney noted that you are only limited by the amount of time and trouble you want to go to. There are not as many Confederate records in the National Archives as Union records. She distributed handouts including the topics of "Where to Begin Your Research," "How to Discover Your Soldier's Unit," "What Types of Records Are Available," "How to Research Your Soldier's Unit" and "Going Deeper".

When Mrs. Stickney was researching her ancestors, she found that the 1860 U.S. Census is the best place to begin since this is the one closest to the Civil War. County marriage records are good because they provide the full name of the spouse in case the soldier was killed and you search for widow's relief. There are several books to consult which are available in the Orlando Public Library that will help in discovering the soldier's unit. There is also a listing of Union soldiers. Through pension records you can find which battles your soldier fought in. One book that Mrs. Stickney found really helpful was "Compendium of the Confederate Armies" by Stewart Sifakis which gives abbreviated war records.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Ruth Patrignani and second by Kitty Consalvo, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday March 17 5pm Board meeting

6pm Program Speaker will be Fayn Leveille from the Halifax Historical Museum whose topic will be “Original Inhabitants and Early Settlers of Volusia County.

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library Mar 10 at 1:30 pm
R&B DeLand Library, March 20

GSSVC NSB Library March 14

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - March 24
5:30pm Program TBA

Report by Treasurer Tom Peake

January Balance \$1,860.93 Book Fund now has \$591.00.



Upcoming Genealogy Seminars

1st Annual North Florida Genealogy Conference,—Saturday, March 12, 2011, Jacksonville Public Library, Jacksonville, FL. General Thomas Lee Jessee is the Keynote Speaker. Presenters include Denice Mortorff, Lisa Thurman, Miles Meyer, Lori Miranda, C Ann Staley, Karen Rhodes, Darrius Gray, Margaret B Young, Elmer Spear, Michael Clinansmith, Gaylor Findley, Beth Wilson, and Nephi Watt. Pre-Event Regis-

Are You a Genealogist?

wide-brimmed hat to ward off
sun and rain in cemeteries

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trifocal glasses.....| 0^0 |.....pious expression for
dust mask.....(|-----|)          begging documents from
sticky tongue from.....\---/          distant relatives
    licking stamps              | - |
                                -----| |-----
bent back from bending..../\ \ \ -/ / /\          /8|--|..coffee mug that
    over documents              / || o ||\ \          / 8|_| says "I Brake
muscular right arm...../ /||| |o| ||| \ \ /0/          for Cemeteries"
    from cranking              / / |||_|o|_||||: \ \ /:
    microfilm readers          / / || o || : \ / :watch (to make sure you
carpal tunnel...../ / | / o \ | : \ / have time before the
    syndrome                    / / | o | : : library closes to check
inky hands....._/--/ oooo=====| : : one more reference)
writer's cramp..../// :UUUU \_| : :vest with pedigree chart on
                                : | /\ | : : back for others to read
coin changer for photocopy: | || | : :shirt with large pockets
    machines and the lockers | || | : for pens, cards, etc.
    at the National Archives /---/---\ :
                                : || | | :wallet and checkbook (you can
knee pads for finding.....\---/\---/ afford genealogy because you
    books on low shelves      | || | don't spend your salary on
                                | || | food, clothing, or shelter)
bottom of jogging outfit.....| || |
    (recycled: who has        /---/--||--\---\
    time to jog?)              \--\ || /---/....hiking shoes or duck boots

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Mortality Schedules — Unlocking the Mystery

By Echo King, AG

Think of them as government written whodunits—outlines of great mysteries, complete with murder, suicide and even a few peaceful deaths thrown in for good measure. They provide the who, the what, the where, the when and sometimes even the why. . Everything else is left up to you. Sound interesting? It is, particularly if you like unraveling the mysterious clue left in mortality schedules.

The “What”

When genealogists mention the U. S. census, they almost always mean the population schedules of the federal census, or occasionally the state censuses. Rarely are they referring to special schedules like agriculture, industrial and most intriguingly mortality schedules. Simply put, mortality schedules recorded information about individuals who dies in the past 12 months preceding census day (usually June 1). Census takers would record the names of the deceased, the month and cause of death, as well as personal information such as age, sex, color, marital status, birthplace and occupation. Later schedules also included the parents' birthplace and how long the decedent had resided in the country.

The “When”

In many cases, mortality schedules predate the keeping of death records by states, which in some situations, makes a mortality schedule the only record available that offers the date, place and cause of an ancestor's death. The process started in 1850 and continued until 1900 and was made part of the censuses taken in 1885 by Colorado, Florida, Nebraska and the territories of South Dakota and New Mexico. However, some large cities that had other systems of registering deaths did not complete mortality schedules.

The “Why”

Why consult a mortality schedule? For the genealogist, mortality schedules can help document death dates, add family members, and guide searches in other records. Plus they also included information that wasn't listed in the general census. One of the most revealing inclusions in a mortality schedule is the cause of death. Genetic diseases can offer a research insight into a family's health history. Other illnesses may act as clues to lifestyles or employment. Criminal acts, like murder, can indicate a need to research court records and newspaper. Less glamorous, but equally valuable, are the names, ages, birthplaces and other personal information found on mortality schedules, all of which can be used to place a person in a certain place at a certain time. Mortality schedules can also be especially helpful for pre-1850 research since censuses prior to 1850 only listed names for heads of households, age-range was the only information included for other members of the household. Birthplace information wasn't listed. Slave records may also benefit: mortality schedules from 1850 and 1860 can provide some of the only records including the name, age and birthplace of a slave ancestor who died before the 1870 U S Census. Also, noting the age, sex, and color of a deceased slave on an 1860 mortality schedule may help identify the same person on the 1850 slave schedule.

The “How”

Part of what makes mortality schedule unique involves the process through which they were created. Census takers, while making their rounds were instructed to take “especial pains” to record the cause of death as specifically as possible on mortality schedules. To help with this task, during the 1870 census, it was suggested that assistant marshals enlist a physician who would be willing “out of public spirit and professional interest,” to glance over the entire list of disease and correct a defective classification. In 1880 to improve recording accuracy, the enumerators were instructed to visit the attending physicians recorded for each death. Separate registers with the same questions called “physicians returns” were also sent to all physicians to be returned by the end of the census year. Only about 40% were returned, they produced over 60,000 additional names that had not been recorded by the enumerators. (continued on page 4)

Volusia County Genealogical Society, Inc Founded 1976, is the oldest Genealogy Society in Volusia County. Meeting City Island Library Daytona Beach, 3rd. Thursday, monthly at 6pm. Sept—June

Mission: Encourage Society Members and the community to find their ancestors and connect with the past. Provide enlightening speakers at the monthly meetings on relative topics to aid, assist and better our research. Promote the use of and growth of our genealogy research room, develop our resources and grow the collection in the Genealogy and History Room at City Island Library.

Mortality Schedules (continued)

The “Where”

Most of the mortality schedules for 1850-1885 are available for research. Unfortunately, the schedules from 1900 were destroyed by the order of Congress after the statistics were compiled, although a partial secondary transcription of the mortality schedules made for the Minnesota State Board of Health was discovered at the Minnesota Historical Society and subsequently published as the Minnesota 1900 Census Mortality Schedule.

The “Warnings”

Beware — while these schedules are potentially rich with information, they have their limitations. Some estimates suggest that deaths were under reported by as much as 20 to 40 percent, and the information that was reported wasn’t always complete. Like all census records the information in the mortality schedules is only as accurate as the informant and the census taker’s ability to correctly note the information.

The Unusual Suspect

Mortality schedules can be a uniquely invaluable find, particularly in the following situations:

When you know an ancestor died in the twelve month period preceding a census year.

When you have a family member who appears in one census, but you can’t find that person in the next census.

When you don’t have any specific evidence, but you’re not ready to deem your census research complete.

And lastly, mortality schedules may be just the resource you’re looking for, particularly if you’re in the mood for an intriguing read that may even hold the clues you need to unlock the mystery of your own family history.

NBC has renewed the series “Who Do You Think You Are” for a 3rd season. We have this to look forward to in 2012 as well.

Membership Corner

By Ruth Patrignani

Thank you to those who have paid their 2011 dues. Although I am a month behind, everyone will be sporting a new name tag. If you haven’t paid your dues, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Remember our dues help to furnish books for the Genealogy and Local History Room at City Island Library. At present we have 43 members

March Meeting Speaker

The next meeting of the Volusia County Genealogical Society will be Thursday, March 17, 2011 at City Island Library. Our speaker will be Fayn Leveille, director of the Halifax Historical Museum. The topic for the evening will be “Original Inhabitants and Early Settlers of Volusia County.” The evening will start at 6pm with a brief meeting followed by the main presentation by Fayn Leveille and concluding with a social time and refreshments. Please join us for a fun evening.



The Lighter Side

Genealogy Fun Word Search

J E G C O D L S R I C M I D K P G G A A O S Y M W
M S Y H N H A F C L K V N T W U Z I I T U Z K B Q
Y T O R B F C Z P N N M P H R E S E A R C H E H X
K N D L N O I K W L A S Q K V Q L S X P O I B P A
G A N E N G R S U S N E C I V P O L U S E P B E C
I D J R B C O H N M J Y G P Z J G B Q V V U X P M
Q N F L L T T V W O S E M I A R T D R T A F Q X Q
J E X I I W S M V O I Q D Q W T Y R E T E M E C C
A C M X J F I D J S Z T K D I U R G H X H K O J Z
D S E D R F H R U Y N T A T B D E A N U R J A B L
Z E C J O H Y F S S F K Q R E O D E N P Y L Y E B
K D C N T F K N L R A H L M G Q V A E M A N R U S
C A O P S G J S W R H F F E G I T Z C G O C B J E
G C O D E S R I C M E I D K T U M P G E G A A O S
Y M W S C M Y H N S H F C A R L K M V E N T W U Z
I I T L N U Z K U B Q H L A Y O R B I R F Z P N N
E M P L A H E O H X E E L K D L N O K G Y W L A S
N Q K I V Q P L S R R I X P O I B P A I R G N E N
O G I W V S P O I L Z U S E P B E C I D T J R B C
T H H T R I B T M A J Y G P Z J G B Q E S V V U X
S P M Q F L A L T T V W S Y L I M A F P I E M I A
B R T D R G T I A F Q X Q J X I I W M V G O Q D Q
M W T C E A O M X J F D J S Z K D I U R E G H X H
O K O J Z N D E D F A R C H I V E S R U R Y N T T
T B D E A N U Y G O L A E N E G R J A B L Z C J H

ANCESTOR	ARCHIVES
BIRTH	CEMETERY
CENSUS	DESCENDANTS
FAMILY	GENEALOGY
HERITAGE	HISTORICAL
IMMIGRATION	NATURALIZATION
PEDIGREE	REGISTRY
RELATIVE	RESEARCH
SPOUSE	SURNAME
TOMBSTONE	WILLS

Why I Am a Genealogist

I get the worst machine and turn the crank,
And watch the names go by,
My eyes bug out and I'll be frank,
I sometimes wonder why.
And does it really make a damn,
If Becky married Tom or Sam?
Or sailed upon the sea?
The dusty books, the puzzled looks,
That's genealogy.
The census scrawl, the long lost mall,
The time I once had free,
When hours were spent,
In blessed sleep,
Not genealogy!
Once it was the football teams,
Or looking at the stars,
A fish to catch down by the stream,
And playing my guitar.
Now it's names galore and tales of yore,
And thou and thy and thee
The courthouse burned!
What have I learned?
That's genealogy.
But then I look at all the names,
In ordered files, forever claimed,
From time's dark clutch,
It isn't much,
My genealogy.
I know they're out there, calling me,
The names, the dates, the stories,
The lure of genealogy,
Is long lost love and glory.
You ask me why I cruise the Net,
And write for Rooters free,
I guess it's that I love the stuff,
This genealogy!
Randall Black, Irvine, Ca.
Feb. 26, 1996 rbblack@uci.e

Win! Win! Win!

Everyone who brings in a completed correct
“Genealogy Fun” puzzle at the next meeting, your
name will be put in a drawing for a small prize.